

# **Monroe Station**

## **Emergency Environmental Survey for Health Hazards**

### **FY 2006**

While starting on the stabilization work at Monroe Station, Big Cypress National Preserve on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2005 the crew of one Exhibits Specialist and two Sawyers from the Patrick Division had noticed some potential health hazards within and surrounding the historic structure. The health hazards were brought to the attention of the Incident Command at the Preserve Headquarters along with a near miss incident and an actual injury that had taken place at 4:55 pm. One of the sawyers had lacerated his left forearm on a broken plate glass window and all of the crew had to be cautious throughout the day of the weak wooden flooring throughout the structure which was due to insect infestation and moisture deterioration. The incident was reported promptly to the necessary folks at headquarters. The next morning, November 18, 2005 the Safety Officer decided that this accident, the near miss situation and other health hazards should be addressed at the 8:15 am Division Chief Meeting. At the meeting the Monroe Station concerns and other Hurricane Wilma Incident business was addressed. At the meeting the accident and the near miss incidents were discussed along with the potential health hazardous noticed the day before from possible hazardous materials within and outside the structure. All had agreed to halt the operations at Monroe Station until the issue of safety and health was discussed with the Safety Officer, Buildings and Utilities Supervisor, Acting Superintendent, Contracting Official and me the Exhibits Specialist. At the 12:30 meeting with the mentioned personnel except for the Safety Officer it was suggested that we have a professional environmental health hazard survey performed on the structure to assess the health hazards associated with the known presence of asbestos containing 9x9 floor tile mastic, animal/insect secretions and lead based paint which I had tested with lead detecting swabs before the meeting. The swabs detect lead but do not reveal how much lead is present in the paint. All had agreed to have a contractor come to the project and perform the environmental survey for health hazards. Also discussed at the meeting was the importance of securing the building from vandalism and public safety and health. It was suggested that surrounding the structure with a tent would serve as two purposes. One it would secure the structure from potential unauthorized entrance and two be used to treat the structure for insect infestation. Until the environmental health survey is completed and a report forwarded to the Preserve the Stabilization Project at Monroe Station will be at a standstill except for blown debris outside the structure. In the meantime contractors for the tenting, pest control and environmental health survey were being contacted to look at the structure.

1. If the survey shows potential health hazards then the structure shall have the hazardous materials abated using HEPA equipment, wipe tests and air quality tests by specialized personnel until the project is cleared and passed. Once that is completed the structure shall be tented, remove all artifacts, roof repair work completed, secure the openings, add ventilation, and then fog the building for insect infestation.

2. If the survey shows no potential health hazards then the project can go on as planned with the structure being safely addressed with the use of plywood sheathing on the floor areas that will be used during the stabilization and all structural framing components being address individually such as doorways, floor joists, ceiling joists, roof rafters, roof sheathing, etc. for potential structural failure and secure all openings with the added ventilation. The tenting of the structure could be postponed until the stabilization is completed or another method of insect infestation be applied..

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